

RESEARCH ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 MEETING

I. Time, Location and Attendance

- 3:00PM, Plaza Room at Administrative Center
- RAC members present: Lawrence Dreyfus, John Wang, Anil Kumar, Kathleen Kilway, Jacob Marszalek, Robert Groene, Tony Caruso, Mark Johnson, Chris Winders, James Brazeal, Maureen Hannoun, Chris Holman, Brenda Dingley, Patricia Kelly, and Chelsea Dahlstrom. Absent: Provost Gail Hackett, Marilyn Yoder, Jenny Lundgren, Virginia Blanton, Richard Arend, Reza Derakhshani, Lorelei Sells, Denis Medeiros, and Robert Simmons.

II. RAC Meeting Schedule

- Several council members have teaching and family responsibilities which will conflict with their availabilities for meeting attendance this fall semester. Dr. Dreyfus said that in such cases it would be acceptable for the RAC member to recommend a colleague who would be available to sit in representation of their academic unit.
- The October meeting has been cancelled with meetings resuming in November.

III. Tony Caruso, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research

- Dr. Dreyfus discussed the appointment of Tony Caruso to the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research position. Dr. Caruso explained that his primary goals in the role are to increase funding and to identify and increase areas of campus-wide collaboration using grassroots efforts with investigators. He discussed how he will help researchers in Health and Life Sciences areas in order to better approach other types of funding, particularly with the Department of Defense.
- Pat Kelly discussed her own experience with Department of Defense funding, saying it is a much different submittal process than other agencies, such as NIH.
- Jacob Marszalek asked about opportunities for social sciences and Tony Caruso shared several examples he has recently come across for areas such as Psychology. He said he passes along the opportunities as he finds them to investigators and then works with individuals through the submittal process, providing as much or little assistance as they prefer.
- John Wang added that the School Biological Sciences and the School of Medicine are creating a possible merger. Tony Caruso responded that such mergers create new thrust areas as collaborations emerge, creating new positions and strategic initiatives aimed at funding based on interdisciplinary approaches. He said his role will be to assist in defining those directions and to help apply them towards existing funds. He said that regarding new hires stemming from such mergers, it will be important from a higher administrative level to create documents that include dual tenure promotion

criteria, which look at salary structure, while emphasizing and ensuring cross collaboration among departments.

IV. PIVOT Workshop

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that the Office of Research Services will be offering a PIVOT workshop on October 23rd. For those unfamiliar with PIVOT, you can find information on the ORS website at <http://ors.umkc.edu/pre-award/funding-opportunities/pivot>. He explained that PIVOT, at its simplest, is a database of existing funding opportunities that you can match with your area of interest by typing in appropriate key search words. At a more advanced level, one can connect and network with other user groups with similar research interests. He pointed out there are many uses with this application that we have not tapped into, which will be examined in the workshops.
- Dr. Dreyfus said the workshop announcement will be forwarded by the Provost's office to the Volker and Hospital Hill campuses and that there is hope for high attendance. All four UM campuses are working with PIVOT and the Research Officers are making it a high priority to train faculty.
- The workshops will be Thursday, October 23rd at the following times and locations:
 - 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at the Henry W. Bloch Executive Hall, Room 414
 - 1:30-3:00 p.m. at the School of Medicine, Theater B

V. Uniform Guidance Changes

- Maureen Hannoun explained that the reformed Uniform Guidance (or UG), previously called the A81 or the Omni Circular, will go into effect on December 26, 2014. She said the large federal agencies, such as NIH and NSF, are working on revising their policies and procedures and the hope is that they will be released in October or November in order to see how our policies are affected. She said training will be offered at the UM System level to discuss these effects and changes.
- Maureen noted two changes: Administrative personnel can be charged directly to a grants, which previously has been done through indirects. Computers can also be purchased directly through grants. She said the UM Systems will provide guidance on how they want to see these charges documented in proposals. She will pass along information through the listserv as it comes.
- Mark Johnson noted the impact these changes could have on indirect calculations and indirect recovery rates. The group discussed the possible effects on modular and non-modular budgets for grants. Maureen said she will ask how these effects have been considered in an upcoming telepresence meeting with the Controller's office.

VI. Term of RAC Service

- Dr. Dreyfus explained that the RAC charge states membership will be a staggered 3-year staggered term. Ballots were distributed for members to sign up for a 2 or 3-year term, with the 2-year term ending this academic year and the 3-year term ending in 2016.

VII. Early snapshot of 2014 research award data

- Dr. Dreyfus presented the 2014 fiscal year's submission and award totals.
- The submission rate has been steadily dropping until this year but has leveled off and is slightly up this year. Dr. Dreyfus noted that 35% of UMKC faculty have submitted grants, with 106 awardees. For 458 tenure track faculty, 163 applied for a grant last year. He noted that this data needs to be examined by unit Deans and discussed with faculty. He said it will be important to identify the issues with the application processes that may be keeping the rewards low, such as investigators that need assistance with writing proposals or administrative hurdles. Anil Kumar pointed out that mentorship with junior faculty is important in developing strong writers. Dr. Dreyfus agreed and said that Oral Biology is a great example of this.
- Pat Kelly called attention to the current budget model which determines the level of effort that faculty can devote to writing grants. Dr. Dreyfus agreed that the resource distribution model rewards teaching as opposed to research. Mark Johnson pointed out that the School of Dentistry has used non-traditional ways to help junior faculty grow, such as placing promising post-doctoral fellows on a non-tenure track research assistant professor position which allows them to work on grants.
- Dr. Dreyfus concluded that, based on this data, the University has priorities to concentrate on this year. He noted that incentives for research should be included, as well as accountability for faculty to their respective units regarding their level of research activity. Dr. Dreyfus said that the Office of Research Services is there to assist units, and encourages feedback from academic units regarding specific help that is needed.
- Pat Kelley asked if there has been difficulty for others in getting grant funded staff through the hiring committee. She explained that it's been an issue for her unit regarding the timing and processes. The backup effect is that other staff is filling in and working overtime for the grant to move forward. Tony Caruso recommended the setup of a pre award with a Mocode if you have been notified that award will go through in order to get the process started. Dr. Dreyfus said he would be happy to assist her the School of Nursing with their current issues.

VIII. Research Open House Event (Fall 2014)

- Dr. Dreyfus described holding an open forum where faculty of research and scholarship can come share their work. It will be open to both the Volker and Hospital Hill campuses and will meet at one venue, the Student Union. He said ORS will be present to assist with process questions. Tony Caruso explained that this is about forming collaborations and learning about what colleagues are working on. He explained that there will be poster presentations, as well as a PIVOT station. It was discussed about whether students will be invited to present and Dr. Dreyfus said that, considering the limited space, this is something to contemplate.
- Dr. Dreyfus invites those who are interested in working on the event to contact him.